

July 6, 2016

Vermont Public Service Board
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620

Re: Temporary sound level standards for wind generation projects –
comment response.

Dear Members of the Public Service Board,

In response to comments filed concerning the temporary sound standards for industrial wind power generation I would like to make several statements.

In reviewing the comments/proposals by CMP, REV and VERA I find them to be virtually identical in their unwillingness to address public concerns over the harm caused by industrial wind noise. I remain adamant that these organizations stand on a platform of industry profit and that their input should not be included in the deliberations over this rule-making.

GMP cites a positive endorsement by the Town of Lowell but that town receives a substantial payment from GMP. That payment does not make up for the harm caused to individuals in that town or the adjacent towns who suffer from the effects of the turbines. Also, there were several endorsements included in GMP's comment, one of which was from Rod and Diana Ferguson who made it clear they financially profited from the construction of the Lowell turbines and continue to do so even now.

REV, a lobbying group that profits from wind industry developments, actually had the gall to use the PSB rule format to direct the PSB how to write the rules. Such arrogance. REV also created a rule that if a complaint was made then another complaint would not be allowed for five years. This belligerent attitude is not acceptable when it comes to citizen health and safety.

VERA's comment is poorly referenced and contains an endorsement to All Earth Renewables, a wind/solar development company owned by David Blittersdorf. This indicates to me that once again for-profit organizations

and individuals have a serious conflict of interest in this sound rule-making process.

I must also express my disappointment in the poorly written and poorly referenced contribution from the Department of Public Service. All the DPS seems to be saying is they have no idea what to do so do nothing and let the industry have its way. This is not acceptable.

I am impressed by the thorough and well researched comments offered by Vermonters for a Clean Environment and Energize Vermont. I have also read the comments by affected and interested individuals whose lives have been, are, and potentially will be affected by improper siting of industrial wind turbines with ineffective safeguards on noise emissions.

It is clear that the present wind turbine sound levels are producing injuries and complaints. The current levels of 30 dBa (interior) and 45 dBa (exterior), averaged over 1 hour are not addressing the issue of citizen complaint and harm. The interior 30 dBa level might be acceptable if the exterior level of 45 dBa was dropped to 35 dBa and averaged over a 10 minute span, with sound monitoring being continuous during the life of the project. Compliance with this standard must be strictly enforced and the penalties should be severe enough to reflect the PSB's concern about harm to the public.

In the matter of infrasound emissions from wind turbines there is no doubt whatsoever that industrial wind turbines emit low-frequency infrasound. There are also instances of the wind industry lying about wind turbine infrasound emissions. An example of this is shown in a video taken on 12 Feb 2013 during a site visit to the Sheffield wind project by members of the Governor's Energy Siting Commission, members of the press and members of the public. Starting at 21.18 in the video a question is posed, by citizen Pam Arborio, to First Wind representative, Josh Bagnato, concerning wind turbine infrasound emissions, to which Bagnato makes the claim that infrasound "is not a product of wind turbines":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kvZ3cXJ8GQ&feature=youtu.be>

Bagnato lied to the commissioners, to the press and to the citizens of Vermont. Infrasound emissions from wind turbines has been studied since 1987, and likely before that as well:

<http://www.windturbinesyndrome.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/1987-Proposed-Metric-Assessing-Potential-Annoyance-NREL-Kelley-searchable-copy.pdf>

There is a NASA document showing the emissions of infrasound from a horizontal wind turbine in 1980, the link for this can be found in a History of Research from the Waubra Foundation (Australia):

<http://waubrafoundation.org.au/health/history/>

The use of infrasound for weaponry has also been known for some time:

<https://crab.wordpress.com/2008/01/14/a-short-history-of-sound-weapons-pt2-infrasound/>

Setting a standard for infrasound emissions from wind turbines is critical and, because research is still ongoing, the PSB must use the precautionary principle to protect human health even if the hazard is not clearly defined. Infrasound emissions from industrial wind turbines must be constantly monitored both at the turbines and throughout a 3 mile zone around the turbines. Any home reporting a disturbance relating to the turbines should also be monitored for infrasound for the duration of the wind project. Any infrasound emission from the wind turbine project should immediately be halted at the source.

My own home has been threatened by industrial wind development. In 2012 an industrial wind developer, Eolian Renewable Energy, attempted to follow in the footsteps of the failed East Haven Wind project, and place MET towers and industrial wind turbines on the ridgelines in Newark, Brighton and Ferdinand (UTG). The PSB did not do its due diligence to protect the people of these areas from this terribly misguided project and allowed their then Hearing Officer, Bridgette Remington, to issue a CPG (for four MET towers) to Eolian even though Eolian never properly completed their application for a CPG. Bridgette Remington left the PSB shortly afterward to work in a law firm representing industrial wind and

solar developers. Eolian's project failed due to opposition and inability to finance the project. This is just one of many incidents that has led to overt mistrust of the PSB.

I am a disabled veteran who had/has hopes of living out my years in a quiet peaceful place. I attach to this comment response a map of Eolian's proposed MET/Turbine locations and the location of my house. What the map doesn't show is that the elevation of my house is 1,715 ft with a valley below (where Rt 114 runs) at 1,200-1,300 ft, and at the opposite ridge (turbine locations) of around 2100 ft. Some of those turbines would have been lower than the ridgeline and my home would have been about at hub height of some of these turbines. I would have been subjected to some of the worst noise pollution these turbines can emit, as well as the serious visual blight.

I also attach a photo and photo simulation of what these turbines would have done to the village of Island Pond. In these photos my home would have been behind the ridge shown to be used for the turbines.

The PSB has been offered an opportunity to begin righting many serious wrongs when it comes to the promotion of destructive industrialization at the whim of an irresponsible governor. I hope you will not let this opportunity pass. Please establish the industrial wind sound limits at no more than 30 dBa (interior) and 35 dBa (exterior), averaged over 10 minutes with continuous monitoring over the life of the project. Please establish continuous monitoring of infrasound emissions from industrial wind turbines and engage a non-industry professional to provide an infrasound standard. Please enforce a better and more protective standard than is currently proposed by those whose motive is purely profit-driven.

Respectfully,

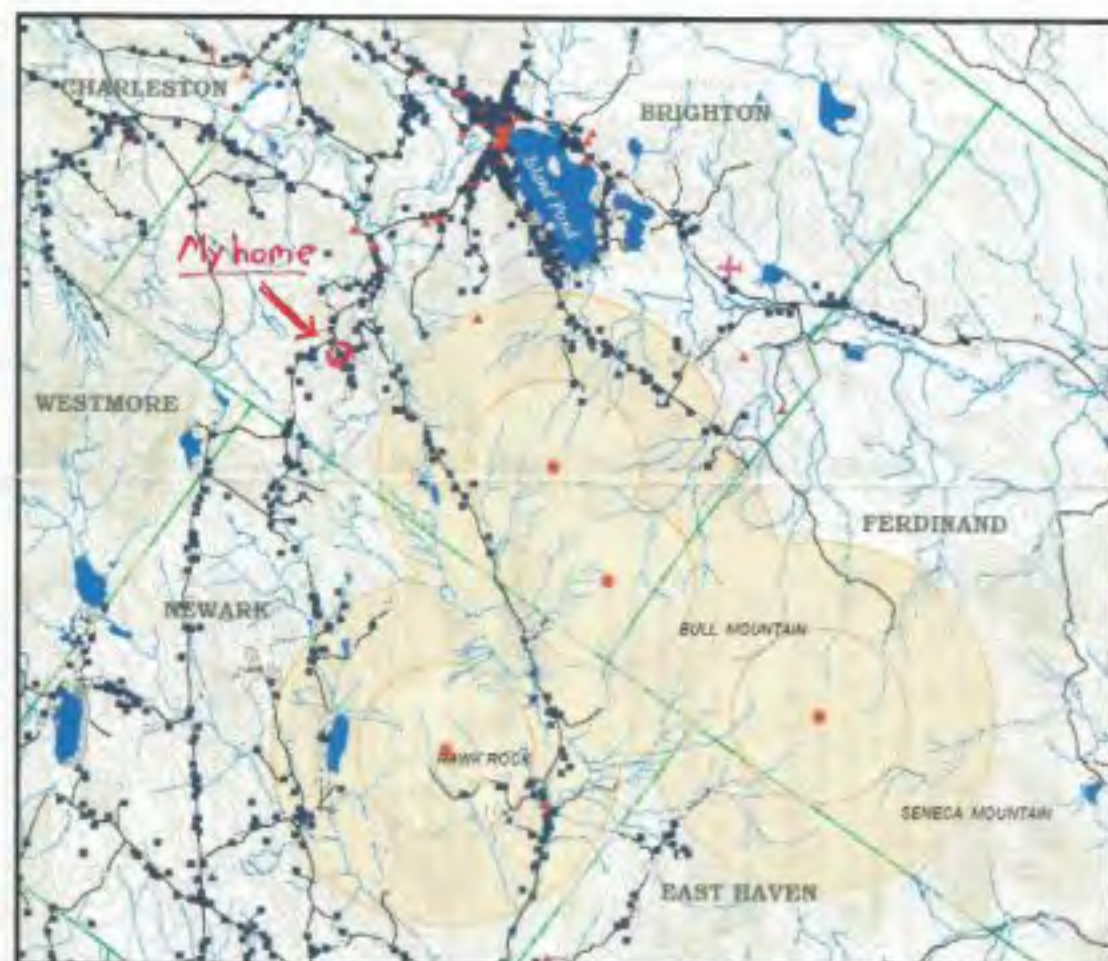
Kathleen J. Nelson
P.O. Box 147
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Which would you rather see across Island Pond?



Industrial Wind Turbines superimposed to a verified approx. scale.



Proposed Met Towers and Possible Wind Turbine Area

Legend

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| ● Proposed Met Tower | 50 Foot Contour |
| • Residential | ~ Road |
| ○ Camp/Seasonal Home | ~ River or Stream |
| ▲ Commercial | ■ Lake or Pond |
| ■ Farm | ○ 1 Mile Buffer around Tower |
| ▲ Public | ■ 2 Mile Buffer around Tower |
| ✈ Airport | |

